

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim ~~11~~ 21, wherein the organic component ~~in~~ of the additive constitutes up to 90 wt.-%, ~~and the inorganic component constitutes up to 80 wt.-% of the additive.~~

Claim 15 (Currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim ~~11~~ 14, wherein the oxygen content, ~~preferably~~ of the organic component of the additive, ~~is less than 30 wt.-%,~~ ~~particularly~~ less than 20 wt.-%.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according

to claim ~~11~~ 21, wherein the gas amount emitted by the additive is less than 350 ml/g when heated until a temperature in the range of 250°C to 800°C is reached ~~is less than 350 ml/g, when heated.~~

Claim 17 (Currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim ~~11~~ 14, wherein the organic component contains up to 50 to 98 wt.-% carbon, with reference to the weight of the component ~~in question.~~

Claim 18 (Currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim ~~11~~ 14, wherein the organic component is selected from the group consisting of ~~substances~~ coal, hydrocarbon resins, bitumen, etc., ~~as well as~~ and mixtures thereof ~~are used.~~

Claim 19 (Currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim ~~11~~ 22, wherein ~~the surface of the additive grains and/or the aggregate grains is~~ have a sealed by means of coating or ~~impregnation~~ surface.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according

to claim ~~11~~ 21, wherein more than 70 wt.-% of the additive grains ~~and/or aggregate grains, particularly more than 90 wt.-%,~~ possess a grain size of at least approximately 0.05 mm ~~and more,~~ preferably a grain size of 0.09 mm ~~and more.~~

Claim 21 (New): A method for producing a core sand or molding sand for casting purposes comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an additive having an organic component and an inorganic mineral component, the organic component containing over 50 wt.-% carbon and less than 30 wt.-% oxygen, the additive having a water content of less than 10 wt.-% and emitting a gas amount in a temperature range of 250°C to 800°C of less than 500 ml/g;

(b) coarsely grinding or pelletizing additive grains of the additive so that more than 50 wt.-% of the additive grains have a grain size of at least approximately 0.05 mm; and

(c) subsequently mixing a granular mineral molding material with molding material grains having an average grain size less than 0.50 mm with the additive grains to form a finished mixture comprising over 90 wt.-% of the molding material and a residual amount comprising the additive and if necessary binding agents.

Claim 22 (New): A method for producing a core sand or molding sand for casting purposes comprising the steps of:

(a) impregnating and coating granular mineral molding sand grains having an average grain size less than 0.50 mm with an additive having an organic component and an inorganic mineral component, the organic component containing over 50 wt.-% carbon and less than 30 wt.-% oxygen, the additive having a water content of less than 10 wt.-% and emitting a gas amount in a temperature range of 250°C to 800°C of less than 500 ml/g, to form aggregate grains of molding material grains impregnated and encased with the additive; and

(b) coarsely grinding and pelletizing the aggregate grains to form a finished mixture wherein more than 50 wt.-% of the additive grains have a grain size of at least approximately 0.05 mm, the finished mixture comprising over 90 wt.-% of the molding material and a residual amount comprising the additive and if necessary binding agents.

Claim 23 (New): The method according to claim 21, wherein the inorganic component constitutes up to 80 wt.-% of the additive.

Claim 24 (New): The method according to claim 20, wherein more than 90 wt.-% of the additive grains possess a grain size of at least approximately 0.09 mm.